

THE NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS
OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT TX-28
Summer Class of 2003

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The competitions for any Congressman's nomination is generally keen. Therefore, all candidates are urged to apply to every nominating authority for which their eligibility allows. If a candidate receives a nomination from another source, the candidate must notify my office as soon as possible. I may choose not to duplicate that nomination. This practice provides the academies a greater selection of young people and gives more young people an opportunity for an appointment.

Please note that the deadline for submission of all required materials to the Office of Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez is November 22, 2002.

GENERAL ADMISSIONS STANDARDS

- C Legal domicile within the boundaries of the representative's congressional district.
- C The three academies consider evidence of character, scholarship, leadership, physical aptitude, medical fitness, goals and motivation.
- C Absence of good moral character is cause for disqualification. An arrest or conviction does not automatically disqualify the applicant, but an investigation will be conducted.
- C Applicants must be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23rd birthday.
- C Applicants must be a U.S. citizen.
- C Applicants must be unmarried, not pregnant and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents.

SCHOLASTIC/ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- C All Service Academies will use either the SAT or ACT scores, whichever is higher, and will use the highest score achieved.
- C The Academies have set minimum SAT and ACT scores:

Minimum SAT scores of 500/Verbal and 550/Math, or
Minimum ACT scores of 24/English, 25/Math, 24/Reading, 25/Science Reasoning.

- C Please note that these scores are just minimums. The average scores are higher. For example, at the Air Force Academy, the SAT test scores of the middle half of entering cadets range from 590-660 Verbal and 610-690 Math. The ACT test scores of the middle half of the cadets entering the Academy range from 26-30 English, 27-31 Reading, 27-32 Mathematic, and 26-31 Science Reasoning.
- C The Academies take the ACT and SAT scores seriously so it is very important that you take them as many times that you can to get the highest score. The earlier you start the better.
- C Indicate code number 0583 on the SAT test and code 7709 on the ACT test and the testing institute will forward the scores directly to Congressman Rodriguez's office.

LEADERSHIP

- C Participation and achievement in organized athletics, student body and class government, clubs and class extracurricular activities, scouting, boys/girls state, church or other community-related activities demonstrate evidence of leadership potential. Work experience for candidates who have found it necessary to work to provide family support is also valued as demonstrating leadership potential.

PHYSICAL APTITUDE

- C Measuring strength, endurance, agility and coordination, the Army and Navy physical aptitude examination (PAE) and the Air Force's candidates' fitness test (CFT) are designed to determine each candidate's readiness to undertake the rigorous athletic and physical education program at the academies.
- C Results of the examination are evaluated, assigned a numerical score and included in the whole-person evaluation by West Point. The Air Force and the Naval Academies evaluate the results on a pass/fail basis.
- C **It is important that you can show that you perform some physical activity on a daily basis. It may be beneficial to start a running program to get you ready.**
- C **The first six weeks of any Academy are like attending boot camp. You have joined the military.**

MEDICAL FITNESS

- C Candidates that meet minimum scholastic standards will be scheduled to take a service academy qualifying medical examination at a military or civilian contract facility near the

candidate's home. Only one exam is required. Additional tests may be necessary and may vary depending upon the academy. Candidates who have questions about their medical exams results should direct them to: DODMERB, 8034 Edgerton Drive, Ste. 132, USAF Academy, CO 80840-2200, 719-33-5362.

- C Medical scheduling and evaluation are time-consuming processes, especially if consultation, retesting or corrective actions are required. The process may take from six weeks to four months.
- C **Please note that asthma is usually considered a disqualifying medical condition.**

The Nomination

- C To be considered for an appointment to a Service Academy, an applicant must have a nomination from an authorized nominating source. There are two nomination categories. The first, congressional nominations, includes the nominations of the vice-president and Members of United Senate and House of Representatives. The second, service connected or military-affiliated nominations, include the selections of the President and nominations of the appropriate service (e.g., Secretary of the Army for nominations to the Military Academy at West Point).
- C An applicant, if eligible, should apply for and receive nominations in both categories. In fact, applicants should apply for as many nominations as they may be eligible for.
- C Each nomination source has their own deadlines and information needed.
- C **The deadline for submission of requested information for the Office of Congressman Rodriguez is November 22, 2002. Late submissions will not be accepted.** The following information MUST be RECEIVED in my San Antonio District Office by **November 22, 2002**:
 - 1. Completed application
 - 2. High School transcript through the junior year
 - 3. Class rank (request rank may be included on your transcript)
 - 4. SAT and/or ACT score
 - 5. 3 letters of recommendation - submit ONLY three
 - 6. List of all extracurricular activities
 - 7. A personal statement about your reasons for wanting to attend the academy of your choice.
 - 8. 2 photographs - wallet size
- C **These items may be submitted individually or separately as long as they are all submitted by November 22, 2002.**

- C Once the application packet is completed, all qualified applicants will be interviewed by members of Congressional District 28 Academy Nomination Screening Board.
- C These interviews will be conducted in December.

NOMINATION NOTIFICATION

- C You will be advised in January if you were recommended for a nomination by Congressman Rodriguez's staff.
- C **The receipt of a nomination does not automatically ensure that the nominee will be offered an appointment to the academy. You must still complete the appointment process with the Academy. They will decide whether to offer you an appointment.**

APPOINTMENT

- C Each academy uses a questionnaire to make an initial assessment of an applicant's potential for appointment.
- C An applicant should write, place call or send an e-mail to the appropriate academy or complete an application request card and forward to the appropriate academy **as soon as possible**.
- C A phone call, letter or mail back card will be answered with a questionnaire.
- C Soon after the applicant returns the questionnaire, the admission's office will reply to the applicant with an evaluation of the applicant's demonstrated ability to meet admissions' standards.
- C Applicants who meet the standards are declared candidates; those who do not meet the standards at that point may later submit additional test scores or information to the academy of reevaluation.
- C **Start and complete your application process with the academies of your choice as soon as possible so that you can get early consideration.**

APPOINTMENT NOTIFICATION

- C Candidates to be offered appointments are identified after evaluation by each academy.
- C Exceptionally qualified candidates are often offered a letter of assurance, whereby the

service academy virtually guarantees an appointment if the candidate remains qualified scholastically, medically, physically, and continues to pursue obtaining a nomination through normal channels.

- C The service academy will notify the Member of Congress, first, to let them know whether an appointment is being offered. You will get a call from the Congressman and later a letter from the Academy. This will usually start in March.

For assistance with this process, please feel free to contact Norma E. Reyes by calling to 210-924-7383, or e-mail her at norma.reyes@mail.house.gov.